

The Problem of Contemporary Graffiti

Photographs

All images in this volume were photographed by L. F. Knight as a research component of the degree of Master of Arts in Philosophy and Cultural studies

by

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Pompeii

(Opposite) Figure 1. The typical large red lettering of the professional *scriptor*, who was employed to paint electioneering campaign copy, notices of public games, various other public notices. Tanzer inferred from the hundreds of election-related notices found from 78-79 CE, and there being few from earlier years, that such walls were white-washed yearly in advance of electoral campaigning (Tanzer, 1939).



1. Pompeii



2. Pompeii. Graffiti from the short entrance hall connecting a house and street - possibly of badly drawn horses. According to Tanzer it was socially acceptable to leave graffiti in the entrance way of a friend's house (Tanzer, 1939).



3. Pompeii

Graffiti from a house entrance (the same house as Figure 2). It is possibly a disguised Christian reference - the fish.

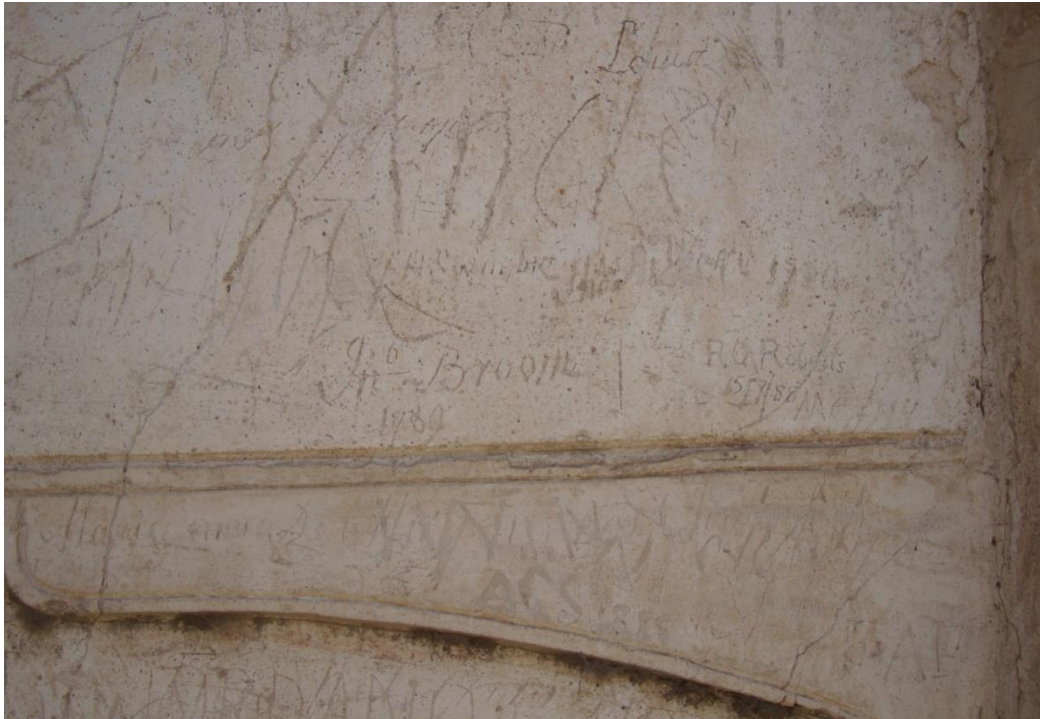
5. Pompeii. The script and language of this graffiti is pre-Roman.



6. Pompeii.



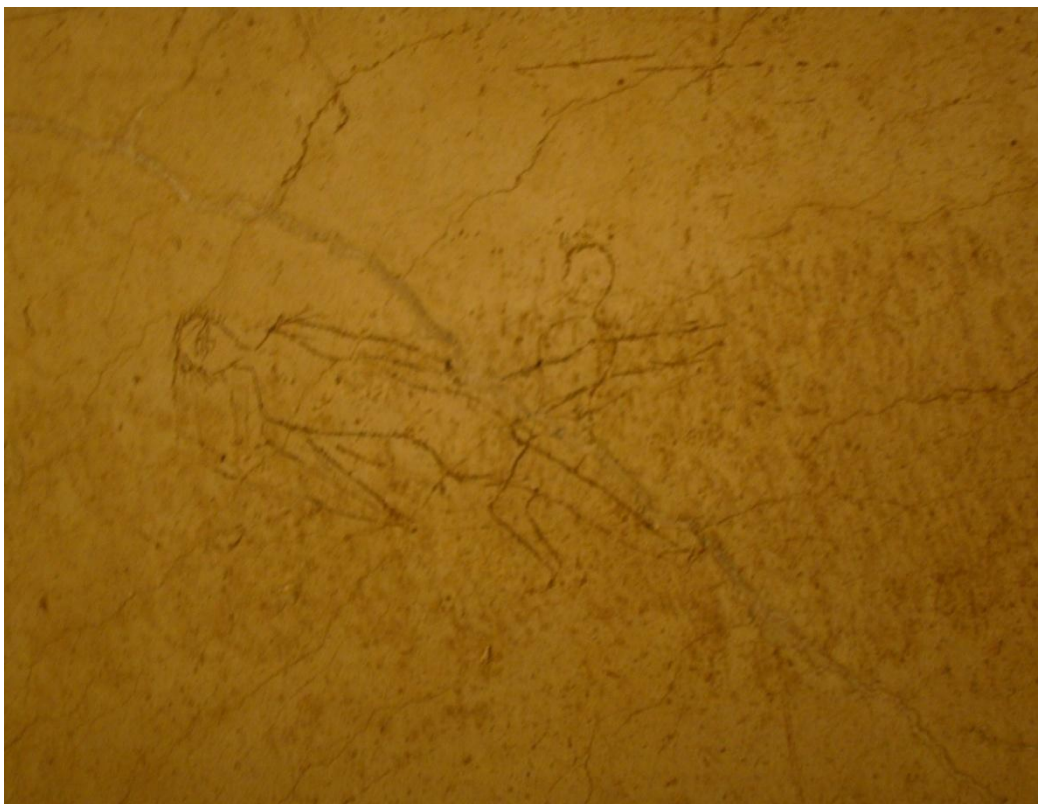
7. Pompeii. Post-excavation graffiti, interior of private residence. 'Tina,' 'Lilly,' and 'Anna' have all left their names to the right of this small painting of a dancing woman. Writers of graffiti often choose to write near other graffiti, so that a kind of conversation with strangers emerges over time.



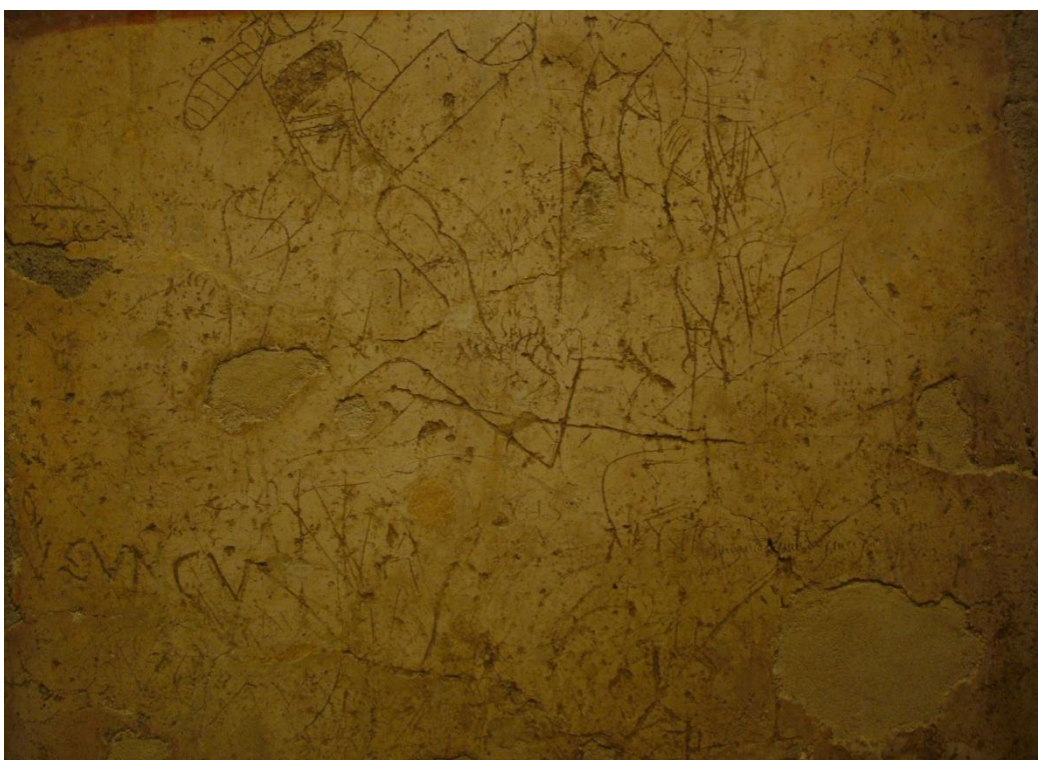
8. Pompeii. Post-excavation visitor graffiti.



9. Pompeii. Graffitied painting, now housed at the National Archaeological Museum at Naples.



10. Pompeii. Erotic graffiti under a painting removed to National Archaeological Museum at Naples.



11. Pompeii. Gladiator graffiti under a painting removed to National Archaeological Museum at Naples.

Naples



12. Naples. Political graffiti: 'Southern Rebel' is 'against racism.'

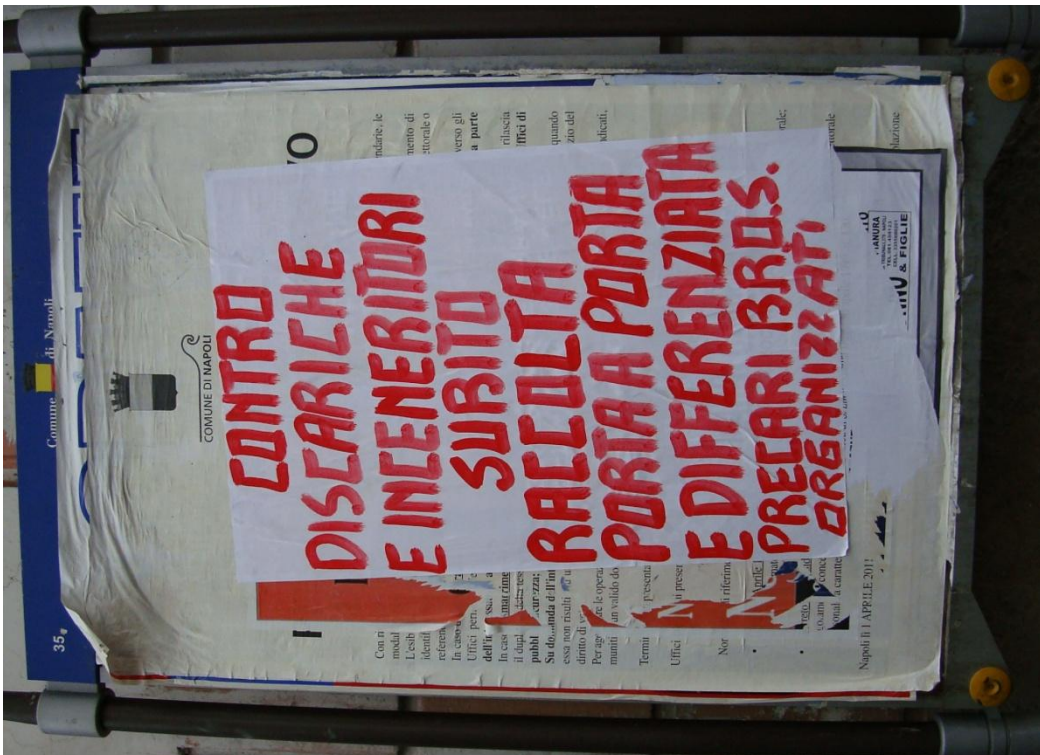


13. Naples. Political graffiti.



14. Naples

Political graffiti: 'Water is for the common good, not nuclear power: vote' no.'



15. Naples

Political message.



16. Naples

Political graffiti.



17. Naples

Political graffiti.



18. Naples. Amorous graffiti extends the length of the waterfront.



19. Naples. Amorous graffiti.



20. Naples. A painting of Vesuvius installed on a public street.



21. Naples

A ceramic painting installed on a public street. A view nearby is that depicted in the painting.



22. Naples

Face sticker graffiti and local transport advertisement.



23 Naples

Framed Madonna and Child print and graffiti.



24. Naples

Mother and child graffiti.



25. Naples

Female figure with paper mâché face.



26. Naples

Graffitied plinth.



27. Naples

Graffitied plinth.



28. Naples. Graffitied newsstand.



29. Naples.



30. Naples. Football mural, billstickers and other graffiti.

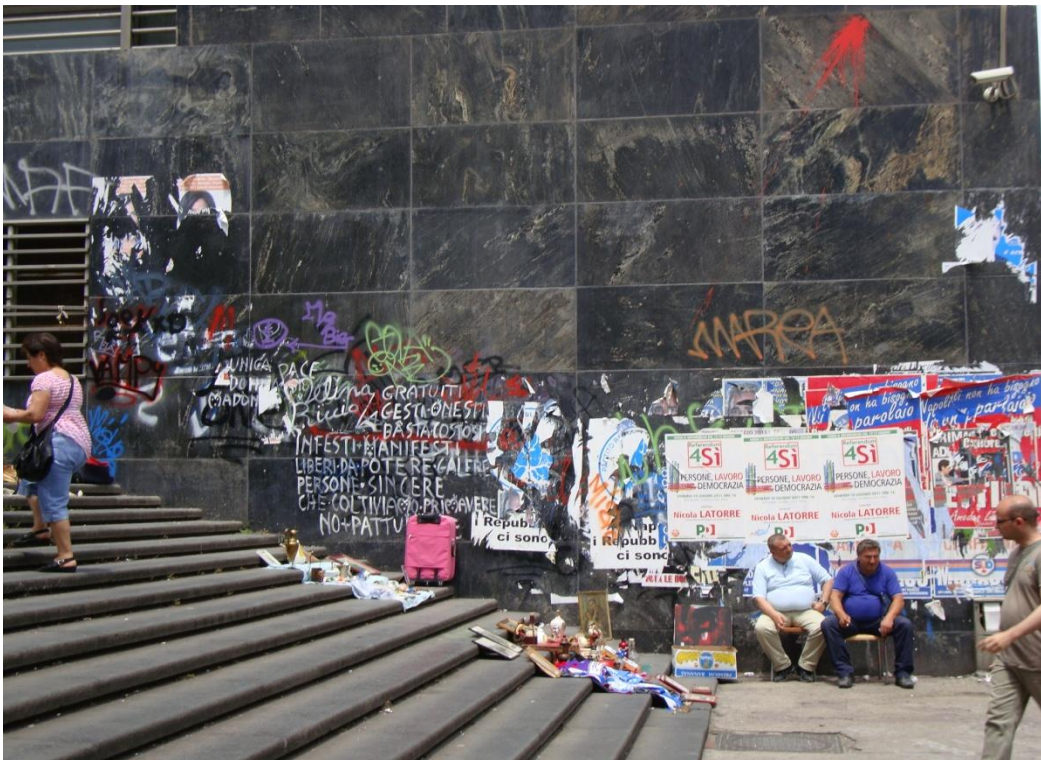


Figure 31. Naples: Graffiti, billstickers and street vendors.



32. New York-style graffiti.



33. Naples.



34. Naples



35. Naples

Sticker figure by Diego Wiedo. This graffitist has pasted many works around the city.



36. Naples



37. Naples



38. Naples



39. Naples. The graffitist has matched the colour grounding these drawings with that of the building.



40. Naples.



41. Naples. Stencilled figures and other graffiti.



42. Naples.



43. Naples. Large sticker graffiti.



44. Naples. Sticker graffiti in a strong comic graphic style.



Graffiti painted on newspaper and glued to a wall.



46. Naples. Train painted in a New York-inspired style.



47. Naples.

Venice

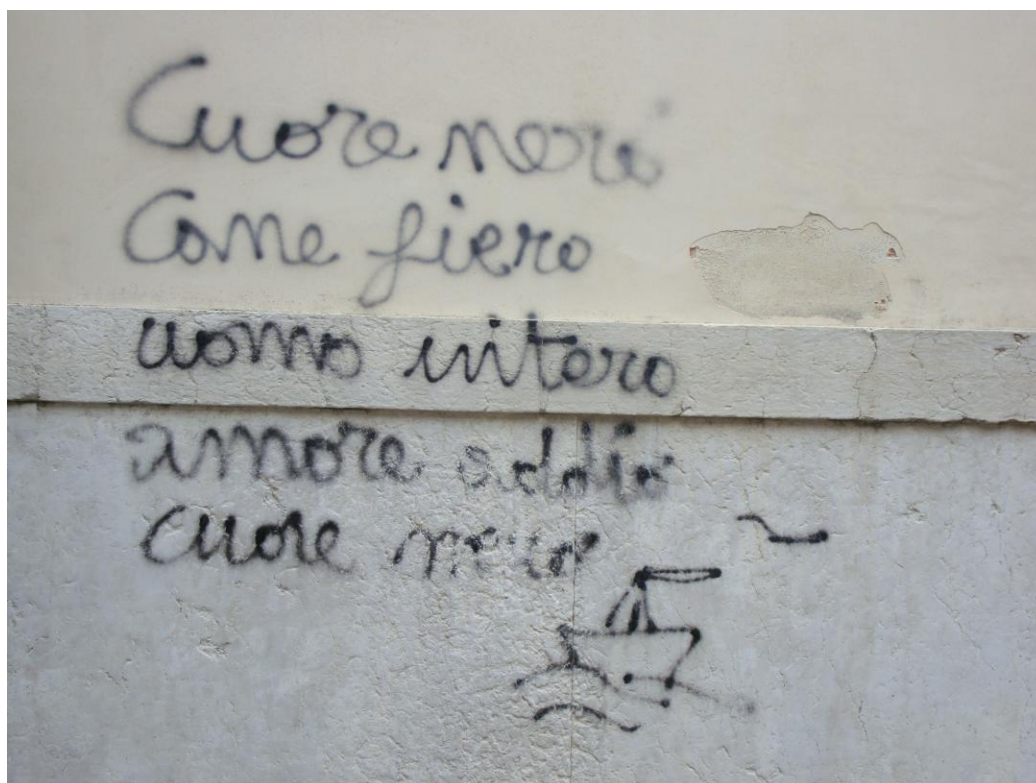
48. Venice. Graffitied chair lift.



49. Venice. Collection of graffitied names.



50. Venice. Graffiti and billstickers.



51. Venice. 'Good-bye' graffiti.



52. Venice. Graffiti stick person: 'long legs' by MONSIEUR ANDRÉ.



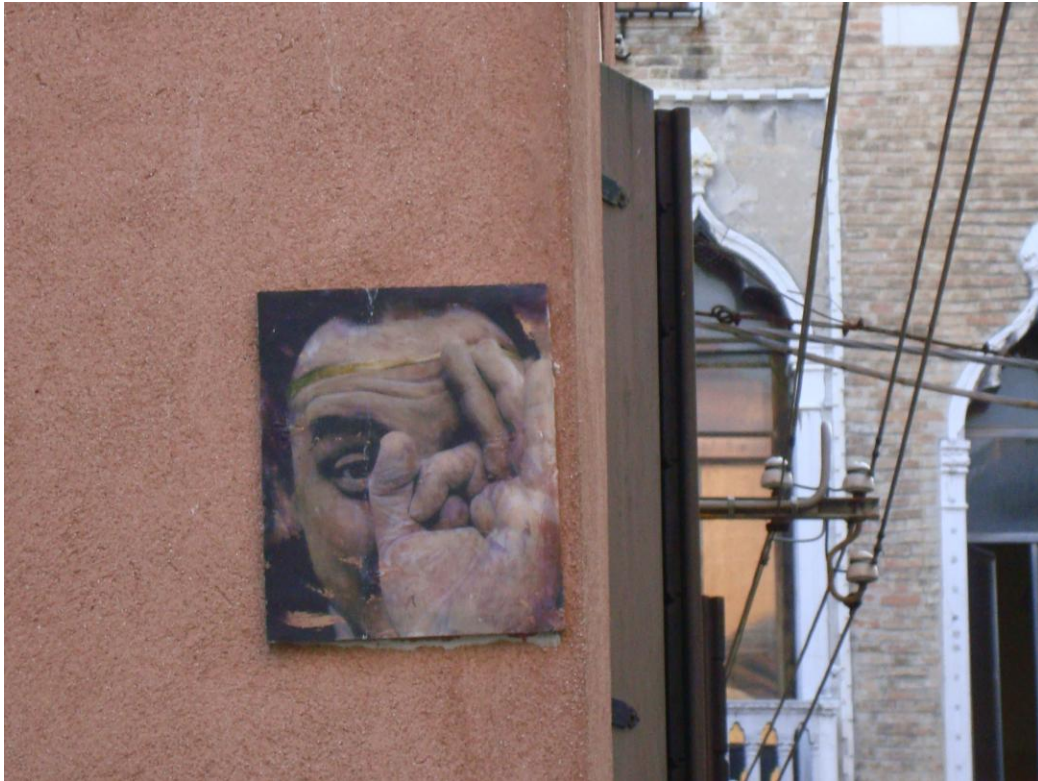
53. Venice. ECO tag and stencilled dog.



54. Venice. Near Doges Palace. A sticker animal, one of a set of twelve in this area.



55. Venice. Near Doges Palace. Sticker animal: it has been drawn, coloured, cut out, and then glued into position.



56. Venice. Installed self portrait of an American graffitist. Another portrait by this artist was photographed in Brick Lane, East London.



57. Venice. André the Giant poster by Shepard Fairey. These stickers, large and small can be found in many cities, often accompanied by the imperative to 'obey.'



58. Venice. Variations on this blue 'throw-up' are to be found throughout Venice.



59. Venice. Abstract graffiti.

A photograph of a group of young people sitting on a concrete staircase with a black metal railing. The wall behind them is heavily covered in graffiti, including the words "VOTA YURI" in orange and "REMOK" in blue. There are also various tags and symbols in green and blue. A sign on the wall reads "A. MARCO RIALTO". The scene is set in an urban environment with a weathered building facade.

61. Venice. New York-style tagged graffiti by the Rialto Bridge.



62. Venice. A complex three-colour stencilled image of a child.



63. Venice

Collection of stickers on the rear of a ferry timetable.



64. Venice

Updated sign on the Venice-Fusina ferry



65. Venice

'Stop the War(m)' graffiti.



66. Venice. Political graffiti.



67. Venice. Graffitied roller-doors.



68. Venice. 'I love you Jessica, Marco'

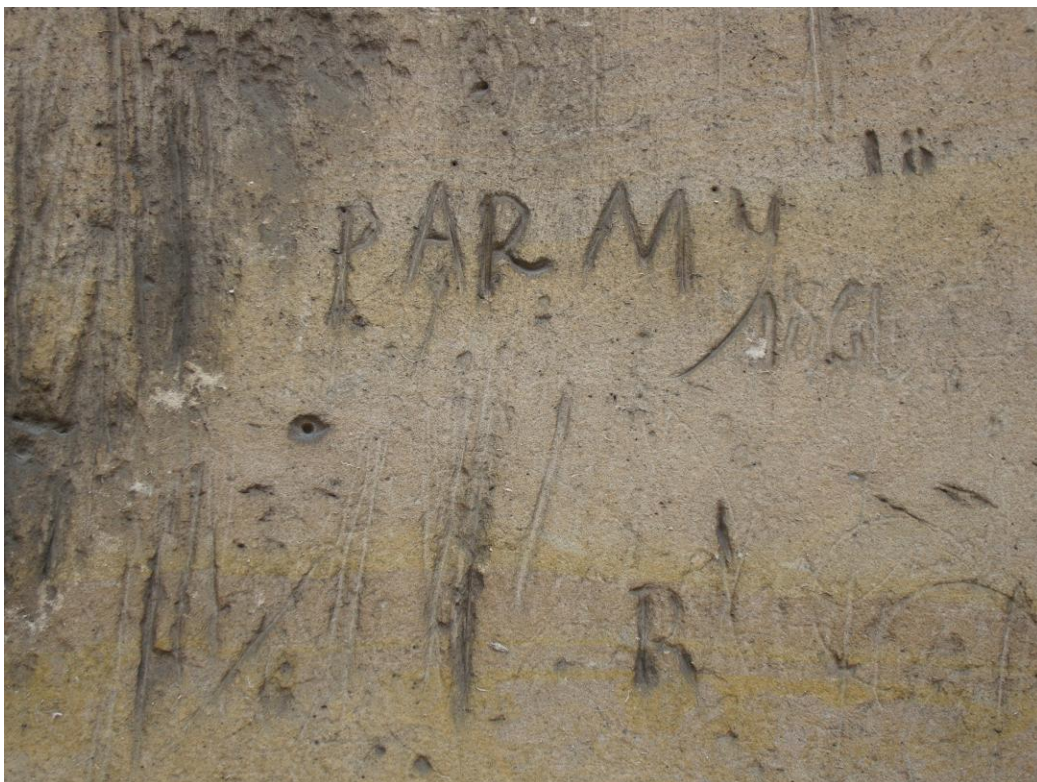
Paris



69. Paris. Graffitied Pierre Cardin advertisement.



70. Paris. Sticker figures.



71. Paris. 'Parmy 1861,' on a former military building.



72. Paris. Tagged building.



73. Paris 'NY Loves Me' stencilled graffiti.



Figure 74. Paris. The Louvre. On the left: 'I Love Paris.'



75. Paris. Stencilled figures by Miss Tic, 'S'offrir quand tout se vend.'



76. Paris. Stickers.



77. Paris

Retro 'Space Invader' imagery in tiles, by SPACE INVADER.



78. Paris

'Long legs' by MONSIEUR ANDRÉ.



79. Paris. A collection of works by international graffiti celebrities. Clockwise from top left: SPACE INVADER; Shepard Fairey; MR BRAIN WASH, or MBW.



80. Paris. Layers of graffiti in the Sorbonne University area.



81. Paris. DOCTEUR PEPPER has tagged this post box.



82 Paris. Graffitied newsstand.



83. Paris. Dripped paint graffiti. This style might be achieved using a sipper water bottle filled with paint.



84. Paris. New York-style graffiti.



85. Paris. Bronze sculpture with a plaster on its knee - a sculptural intervention.



86. Paris. These signatures are likely to be a gesture of affection or praise for this public sculpture installed on a pavement outside a department store in central Paris.



87. Paris. Both the graffiti and their location on this trailer are in the New York style.



88. Paris. This delivery van is also graffitied in a New York style, as above.



89. East Paris. A rabbit and other graffiti in Le Bagnolet.

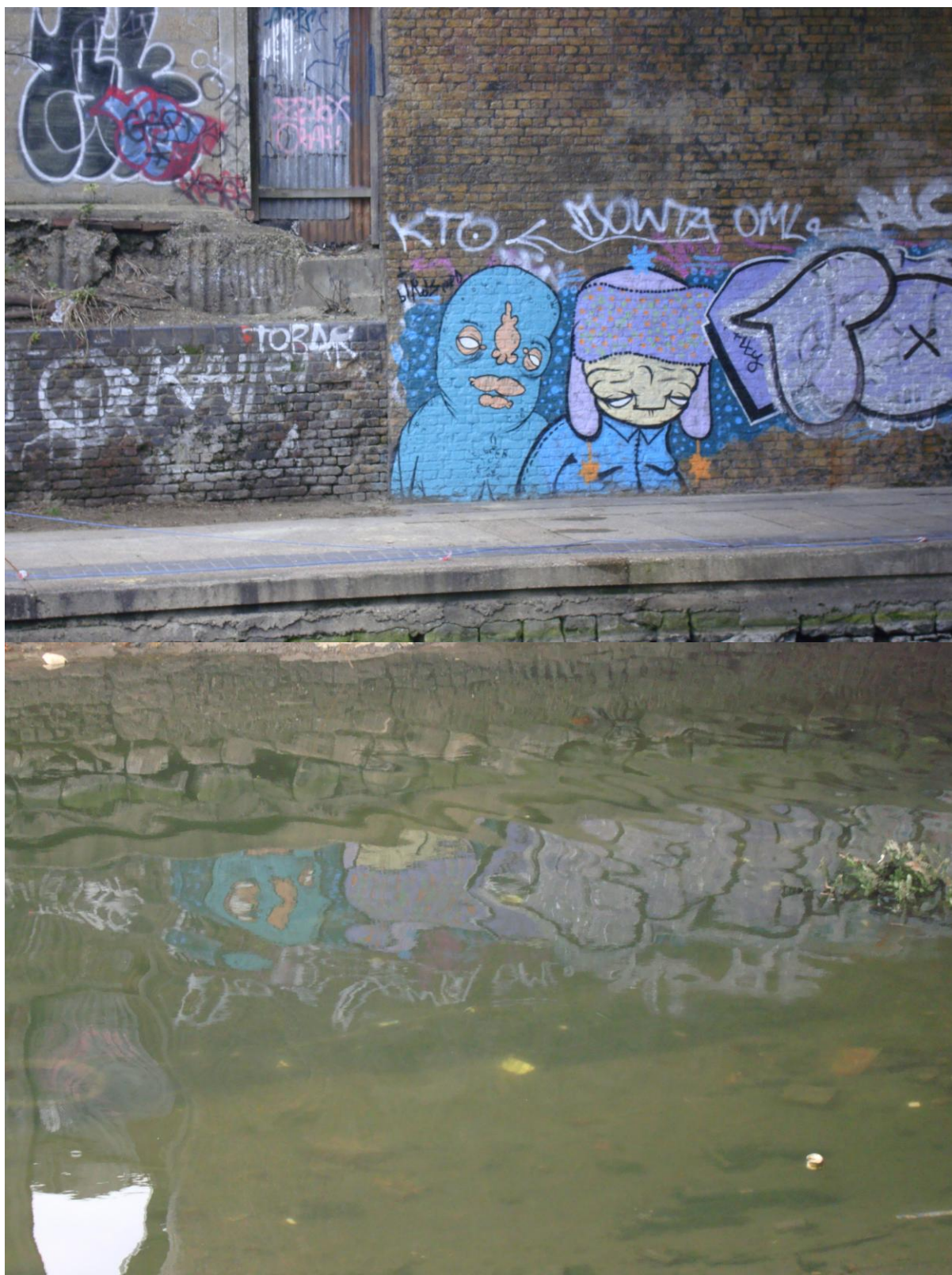


90. East Paris. A barking dog, in the style of Keith Haring, Le Bagnolet.



91. Paris. Many trees in this area alongside the Seine are graffitied, and this practice, judging by the graffiti, is historic.

London



92. East London. Bethnal Green. Graffiti extended along the length of this embankment. Work by well known practitioners is visible from contemporary art galleries in this area.



93. East London. A delivery van, painted in the New York tradition.



94. East London, Brick Lane. Unofficial 'No Parking,' a Fiat Bambina sticker car, and other graffiti.



95. East London. Brick Lane. Installed self-portrait of an American graffiti artist.



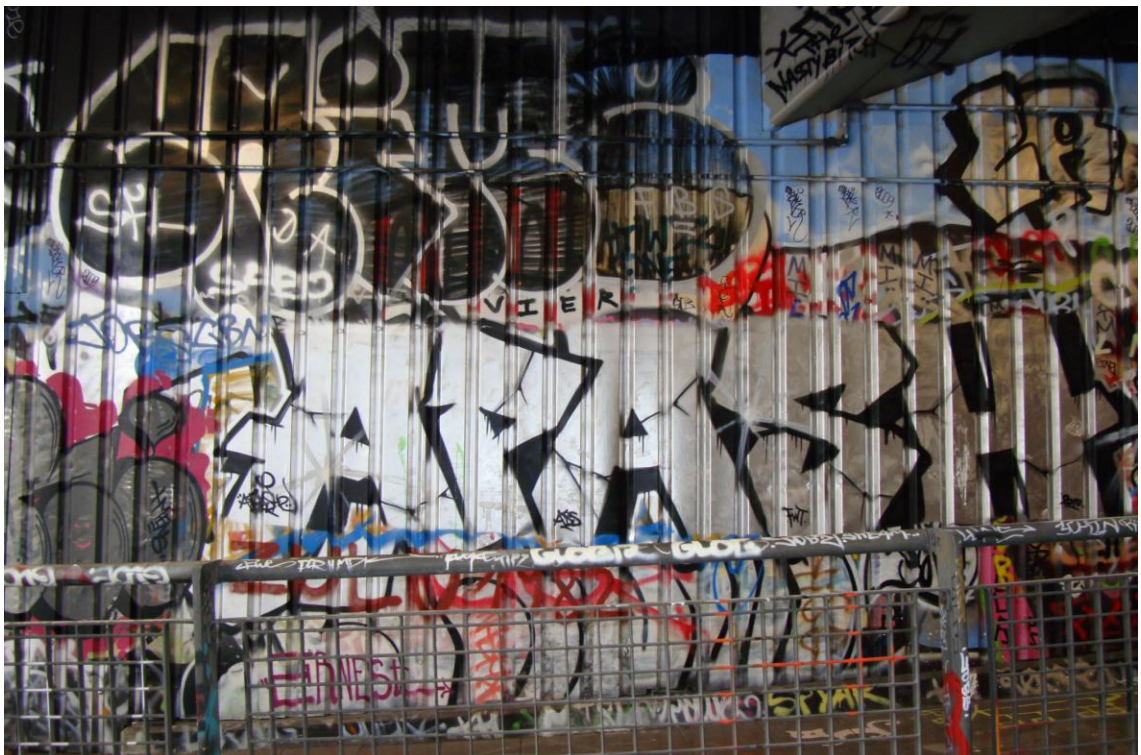
96. East London, Brick Lane. Large sticker bird, teeth by SWEET TOOF, and other graffiti. The crown at bottom left is a traditional mark of a graffiti master according to the Philadelphia and New York traditions.



97. London. The work of BANKSY has been commodified in these small canvas graffiti reproductions on sale at Covent Garden's Apple Market. BANKSY has free work to available on his website, and had the following to say about its use: 'You're welcome to download whatever you wish from this site for personal use. However, making your own art and merchandise and passing it off as 'official' or authentic BANKSY artwork is bad and very wrong' (www.banksy.co.uk, 2012). Groupon UK recently offered 'official' BANKSY vinyl transfers.



98. London. Near the back entrance to a legal graffiti area ('The Tunnel') beneath Waterloo Station.



99. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. 'APASH' has been inspired by late 1970s New York graffiti artists, including LEE, SEEN and DONDI.

PCSO's
YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY
THIS AREA IS UNDER COMMON LAW
TAKE NOTE.
WWW.TPVC.ORG...

101. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. 'You have no authority. This area is under common law.'



102. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station.



103. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station.



104. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. A side tunnel leading to BANKSY's studio.



105. London. BANKSY's studio under Waterloo Station. Studio staff informed the author that this modified ice cream truck was Banksy's latest work (in February 2010).



106. London. BANKSY's studio under Waterloo Station. Here is a make-shift film theatre, home of Paranoid Pictures, producers of *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, 2010.



107. London. Entrance to BANKSY's studio, under Waterloo Station.



108. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station.



109. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station.



110. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. Dissatisfaction expressed for Lord Ashcroft.



111. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. A reproduction of a classified advertisement seeking a graffiti removal worker in Hackney.



112. London. The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. Stencilled tomb stones and other graffiti.



113. London. Front entrance to The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. MBW, or MR BRAIN WASH (Thierry Guetta) has stencilled Andy Warhol-inspired soup cans. This highly derivative artist was the focus in BANKSY's *Exit Through the Gift Shop* film (BANKSY 2010).



114. London. Front entrance to The Tunnel, Waterloo Station. Self-portrait of the artist with camera, MBW.

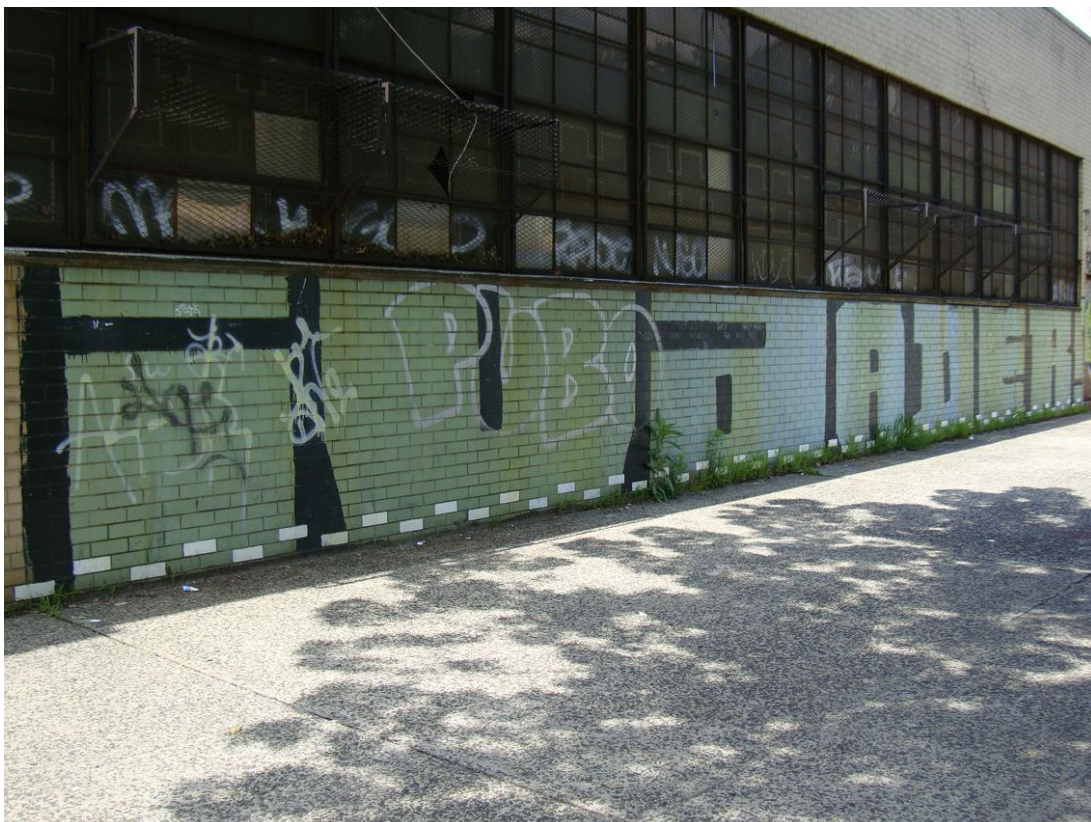
New York



115. New York. Bronx. 'Throw-ups' on a roller door.



116. New York. Bronx. 'Throw-ups' on a wall.



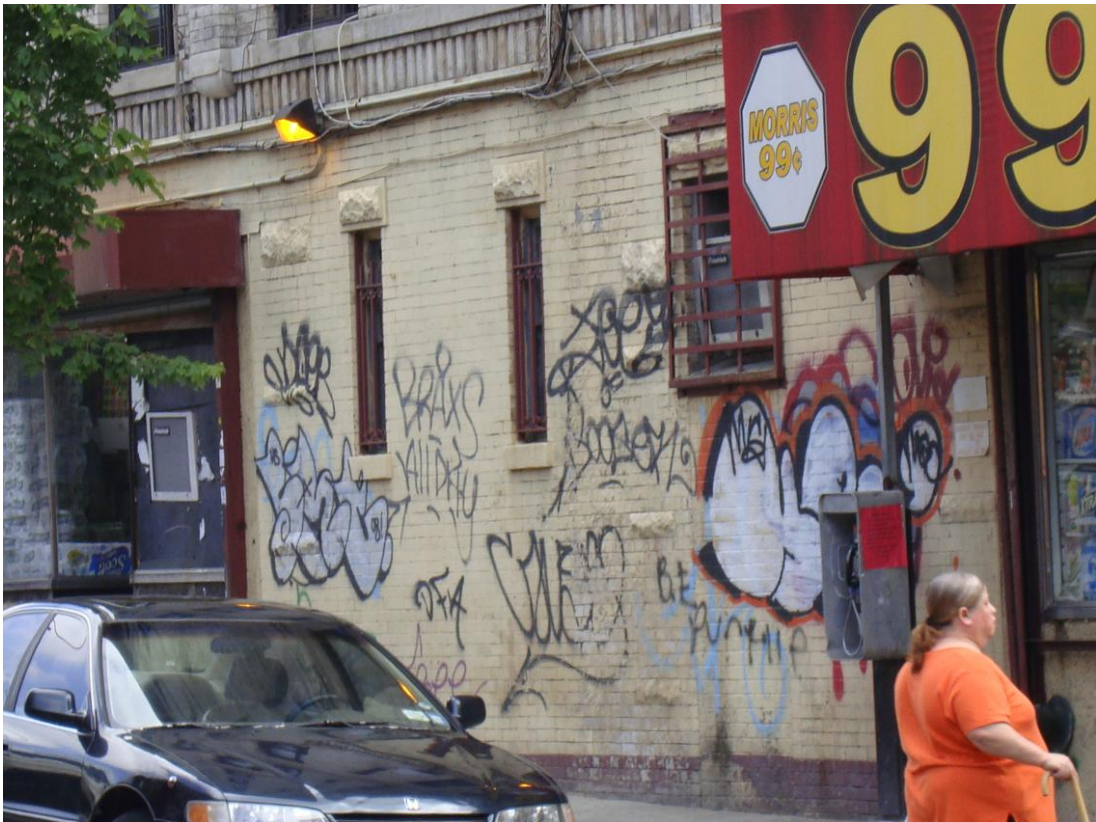
117. New York. Bronx. Large block lettering.



118. New York. Bronx. Updated sign.



119. New York. Bronx. 1970s-style 'bubble letter throw-up.'



120. New York. Bronx.



121. New York. Bronx. Collection of 'throw-ups.'



122. New York. Bronx. Although on a much larger scale than the earliest contemporary graffiti, the emphasis on location, rather than aesthetics, is evident in these works.



123. New York. Bronx.



124. New York. Bronx. 'Throw-ups' on a wall, placed so visible from train, above.



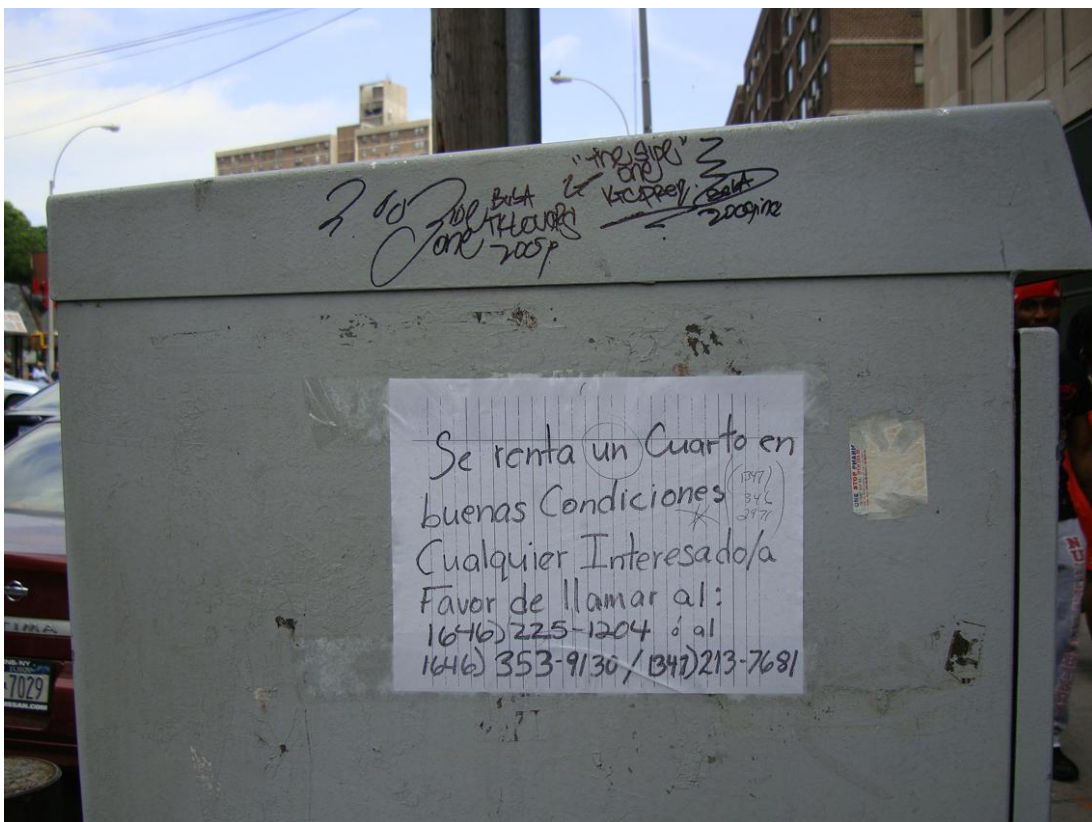
125. New York. Bronx. Graffiti on a road embankment. The greenish paint of graffiti removal is visible. However, the vast expanses of concrete in this area would benefit from unsolicited murals.



126. New York. South Bronx. Graffitied armed forces recruiting centre.



127. New York. South Bronx. Yankee's supporter graffiti outside Yankee Stadium.



128. New York. South Bronx. Spanish hand-written notice on Grand Concourse.



129. New York. Manhattan, West Village. Names scratched into wet cement.



130. New York. Manhattan, West Village.



131. New York. Manhattan, West Village. The 'Obey' stencil, left, is possibly the work of Shepard Fairey.



132. New York. Manhattan, East Village.



133. New York. Manhattan, East Village.



134. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. Graffiti on West 22nd St., home to a number of contemporary art galleries. This is the entrance to a highend fashion boutique. SPACE INVADER installation, top left, constructed from 'Rubiks Cubes.' This artist is French, and received positive media attention during his visit (2009).



135. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. West 22nd St.



136. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. West 22nd St.



137. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. West 22nd St. Woodblocked cut-out paper, by SWOON.



138. New York. Subway train. Scratched graffiti, above, and an unknown substance, below.



139. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. Dripped paint graffiti, as seen in Paris.



139. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. ROGER has filled a fire extinguisher with paint to achieve this effect.



140. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. Graffitied mail and newspaper boxes.



141. New York. Manhattan, Theatre District. Delivery truck with (master) 'piece' by KANE.



142. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. Graffitied delivery van.



143. New York. Manhattan, Theatre District. 'Rest In Peace IZ THE WIZ.'



144. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village. A collection of stickers covers this sign.



145. New York. Manhattan, Greenwich Village.



146. New York. Manhattan, East Village. Well maintained Keith Haring mural at a public fitness centre. Haring is known for his subway chalk drawings on blacked-out unused advertising space in the 1980s.



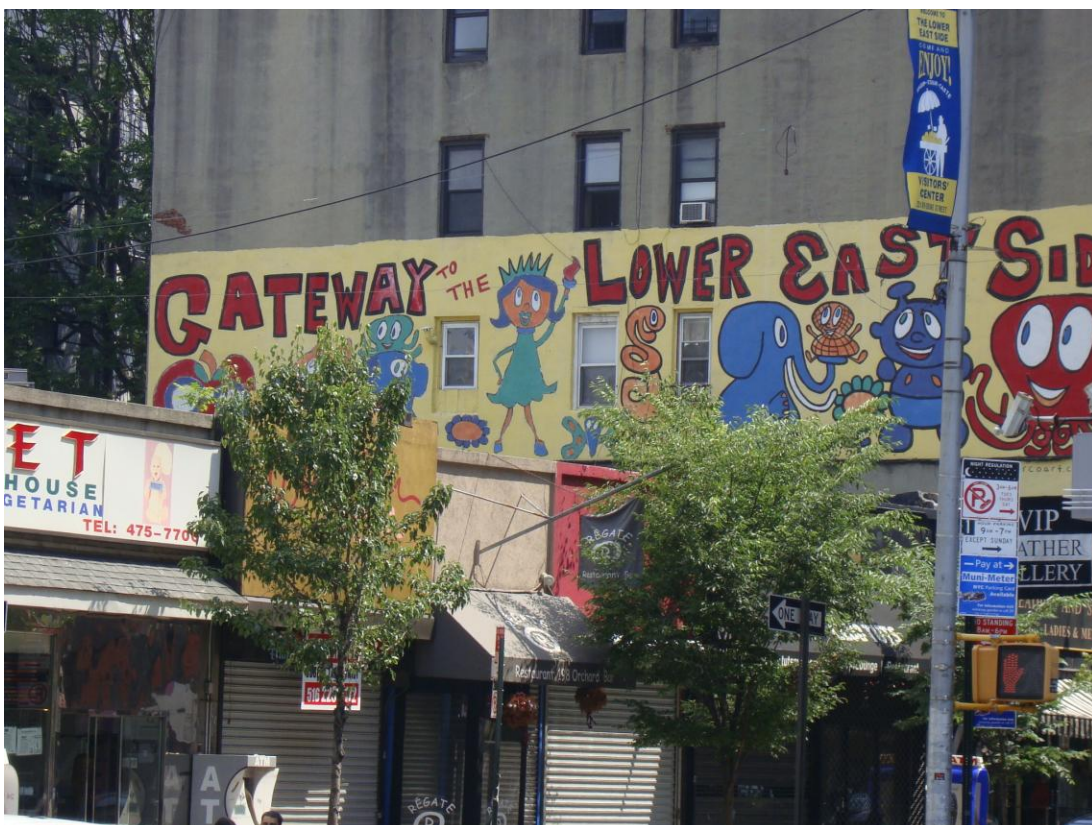
147. New York. Manhattan, West Village. Keith Haring mural, in a (now locked) washroom at the Gay and Lesbian Centre.



148. New York. Manhattan, East Village.



149. New York. Manhattan, East Village.



150. New York. Manhattan, East Village.

Melbourne



151. Melbourne. Portrait of the artist as a graffitist, in the central city laneways.



152. Melbourne. Like the above image (151), this work by BANKSY takes the production of graffiti as its subject.



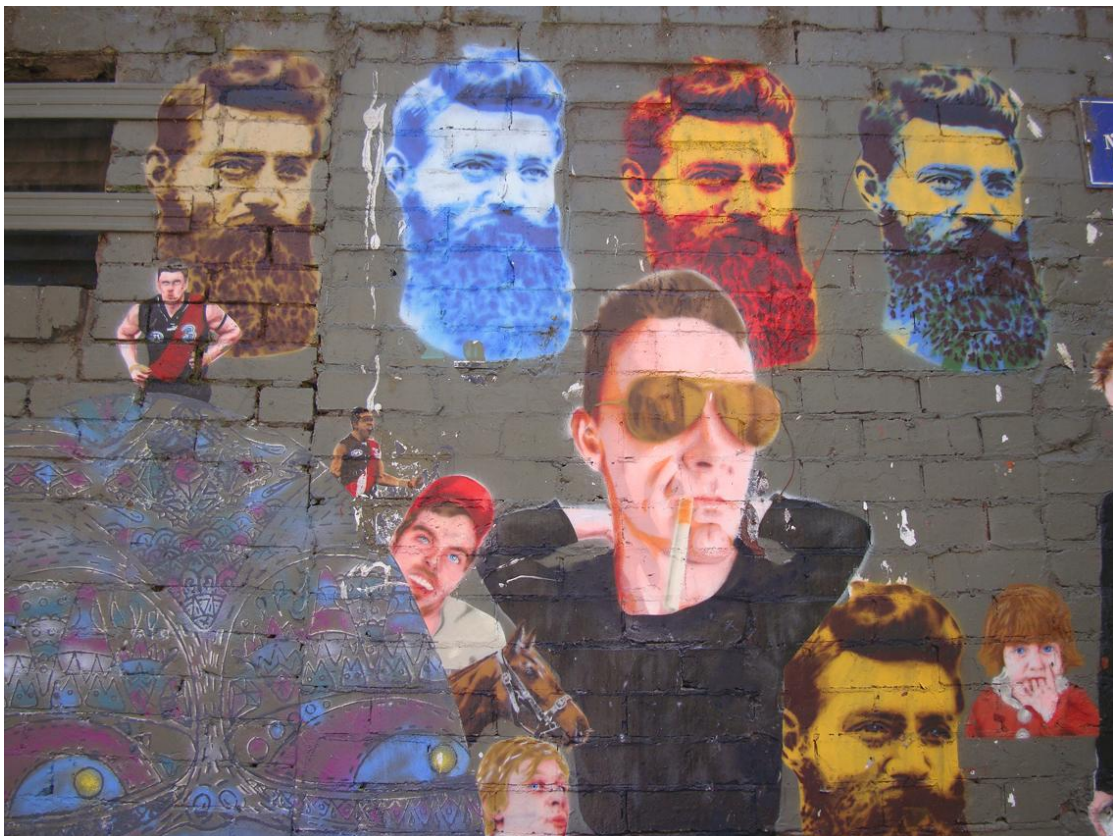
153. Melbourne. Collection of graffiti, including SPACE INVADER, left of centre.



154. Melbourne. The strong graphic style in this work is comparable to work in Naples.



155. Melbourne. The intricate lace-like cut out image behind these figures is comparable to a style developed by SWOON.



156. Melbourne. Lou Reed and friends.



157. Melbourne. Graffiti and rubbish in St. Kilda.



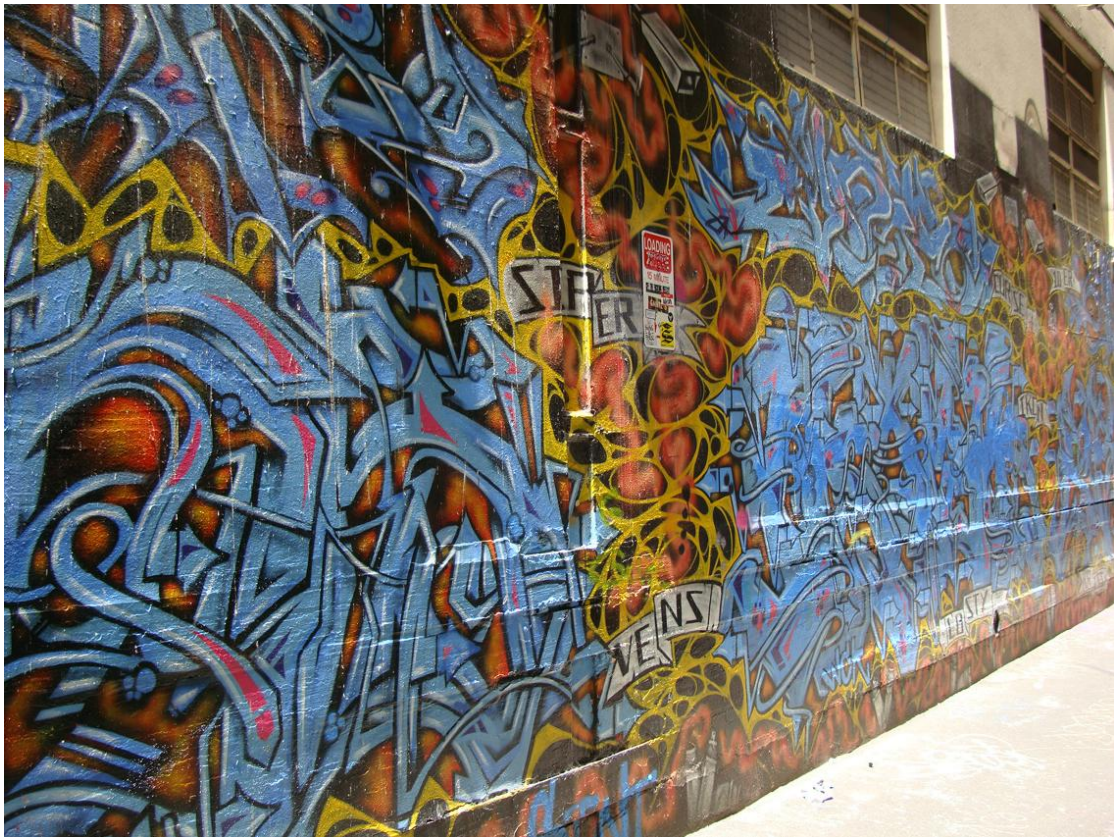
158. Melbourne. As with photographs 115 and 116, above, this work in St. Kilda also takes graffiti production as its subject.



159. Melbourne. Wildlife sticker graffiti in the central city laneways.



160. Melbourne. Stickers and an installed cartoon animal face. Their placement and subject indicate a graffiti conversation.



161. Melbourne. A complex and sophisticated New York-style (master) 'piece,' in the central city laneways.



162. Melbourne. A collection of graffiti styles, including screen print directly applied to surface, in the central city laneways.



163. Melbourne

It is unclear whether this is graffiti or advertising.



164. Melbourne

Bronx-style graffiti.



165. Melbourne

Shepard Fairey's André the Giant sticker in Fitzroy.



166. Melbourne



167. Melbourne. Central city.

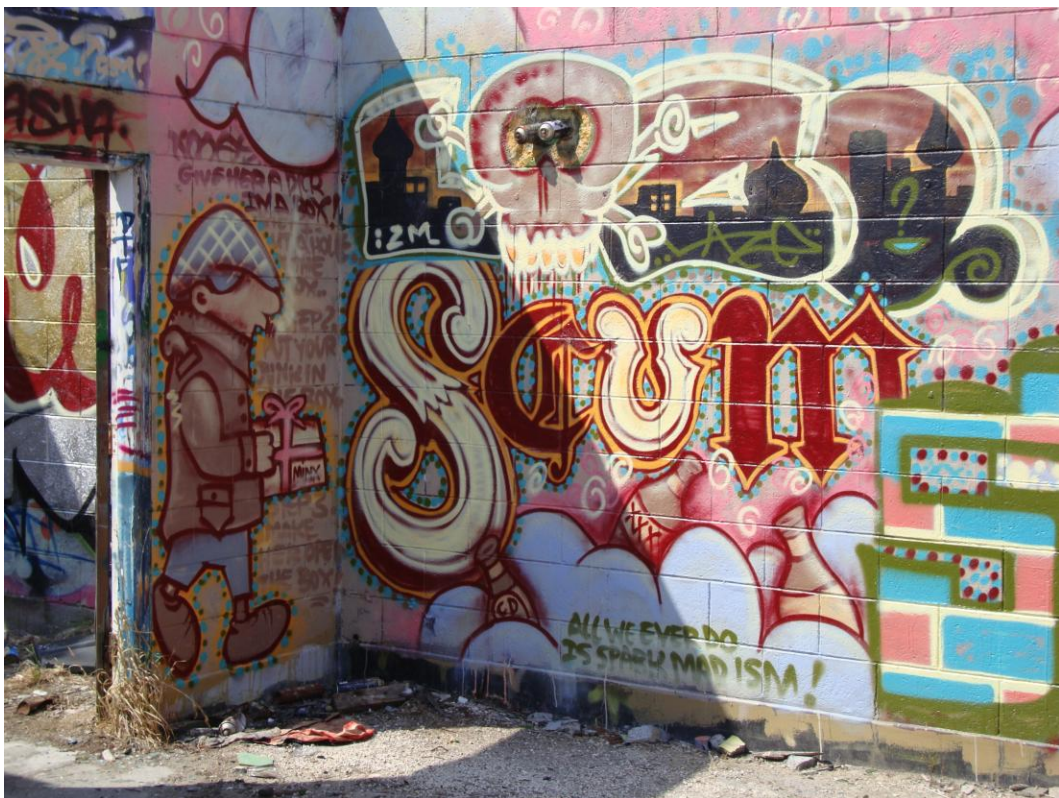


168. Melbourne. Outside an artists' studio in Fitzroy.

Christchurch



169. Christchurch. 'SCUM,' Canterbury stock yard.



170. Christchurch. 'SCUM,' Canterbury stock yard.



171. Christchurch. Mickey Mouse, Canterbury stock yard.



172. Christchurch. 'Life Kills!' and list of graffiti practitioners. Canterbury stock yard.



173. Christchurch. New York 'Wild Style.' Canterbury stock yard.



174. Christchurch. Futurist style at the Canterbury stock yard.



175. Christchurch. Wild-style with bubbles, Canterbury stock yard.



176. Christchurch. 'FRED,' has painted his name with a paint roller in the Bronx style, Canterbury stock yard



177. Christchurch. 'PHONT,' Canterbury stock yard.



178. Christchurch. 'PHONT,' Canterbury stock yard.



179. Christchurch. 'RECAP,' Bronx-style. Rail corridor, central city.



180. Christchurch. 'Waitangi,' rail corridor, central city, below an enormous billboard.



181. Christchurch. 'Throw-up,' and 'FRED,' under bridge. Rail corridor, central city.



182. Christchurch. Graffitied shed, rail corridor, central city.



183. Christchurch. Rail corridor, central city.



184. Christchurch. Rail corridor, central city.



185. Christchurch. (Master) 'piece.' Rail corridor, central city.



186. Christchurch. (Master) 'piece,' rail corridor, central city.



187. Christchurch. (Master) 'piece.' Rail corridor, central city.



188. Christchurch. Portrait. Rail corridor, central city.



189. Christchurch. Maori 'Kowhaiwhai' patterns. Rail corridor, central city.



190. Christchurch. Rail corridor, central city.



191. Christchurch. Japanese Manga-style. Rail corridor, central city.



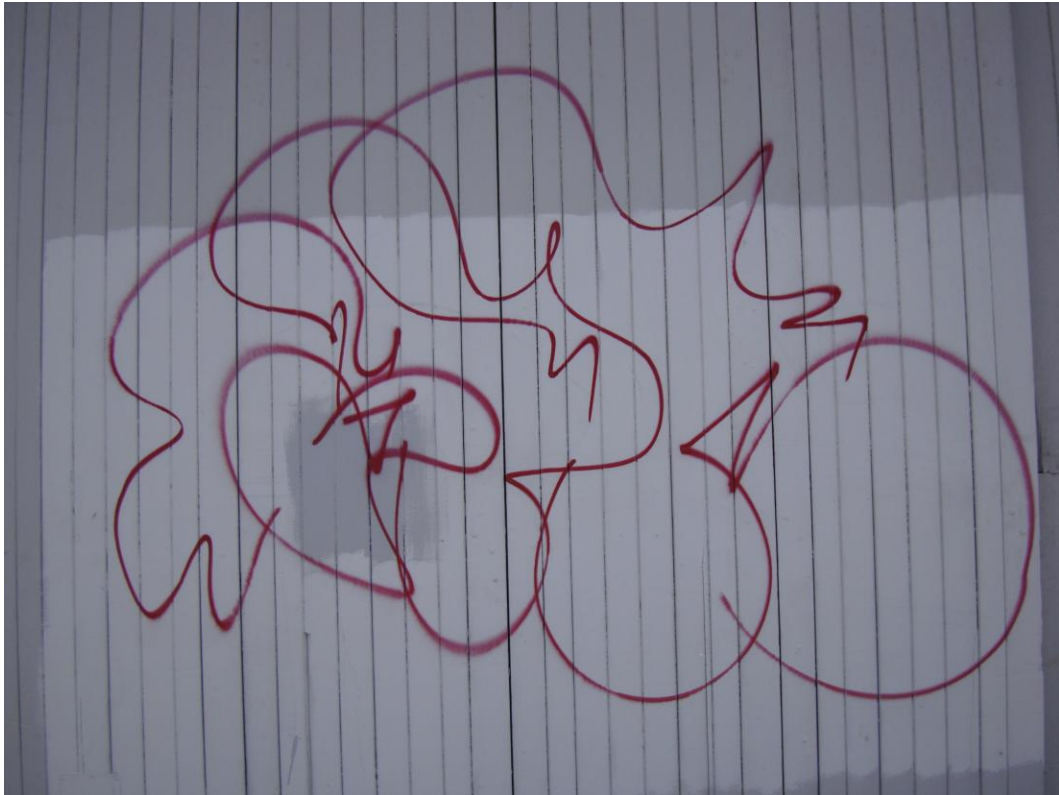
192. Christchurch. Rudolph the Christmas reindeer. Rail corridor, central city.



193. Christchurch. 'BRAKE,' 'FRED.' These signatures appear to be a friendly greeting to Jonathan Smart, at his gallery entrance, High St., central city.



194. Christchurch.



195. Christchurch. Central city.



196. Christchurch.



197. Christchurch.



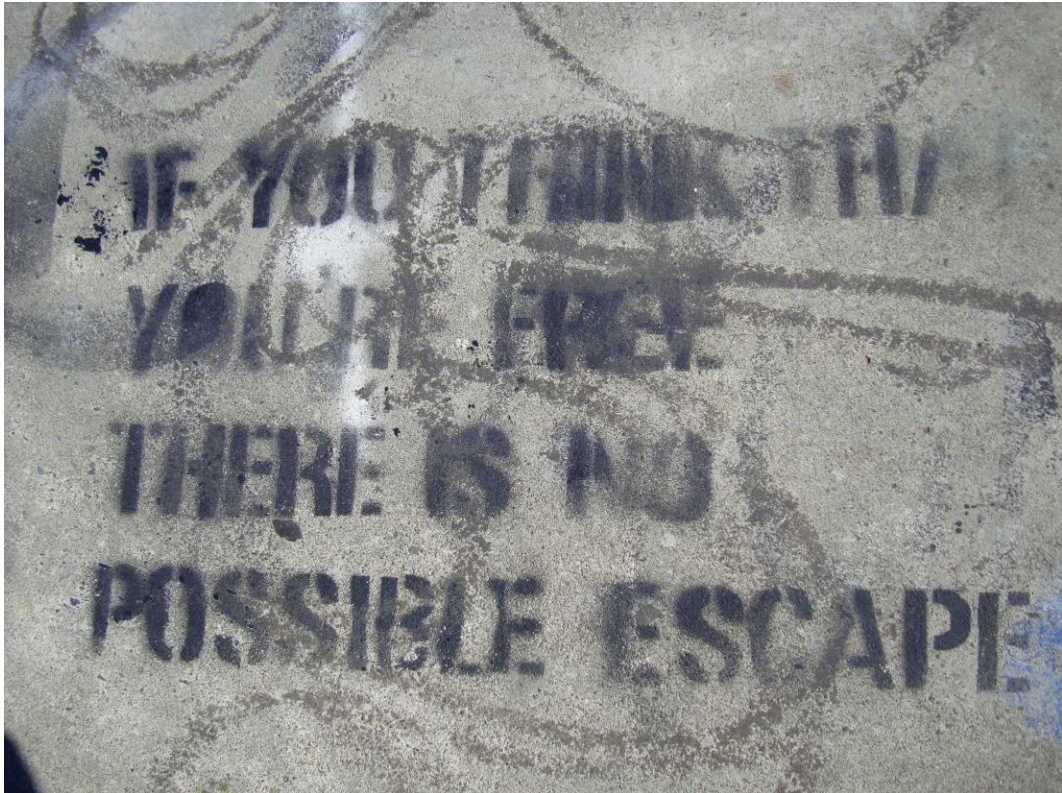
198. Christchurch. Skate park, North Brighton.



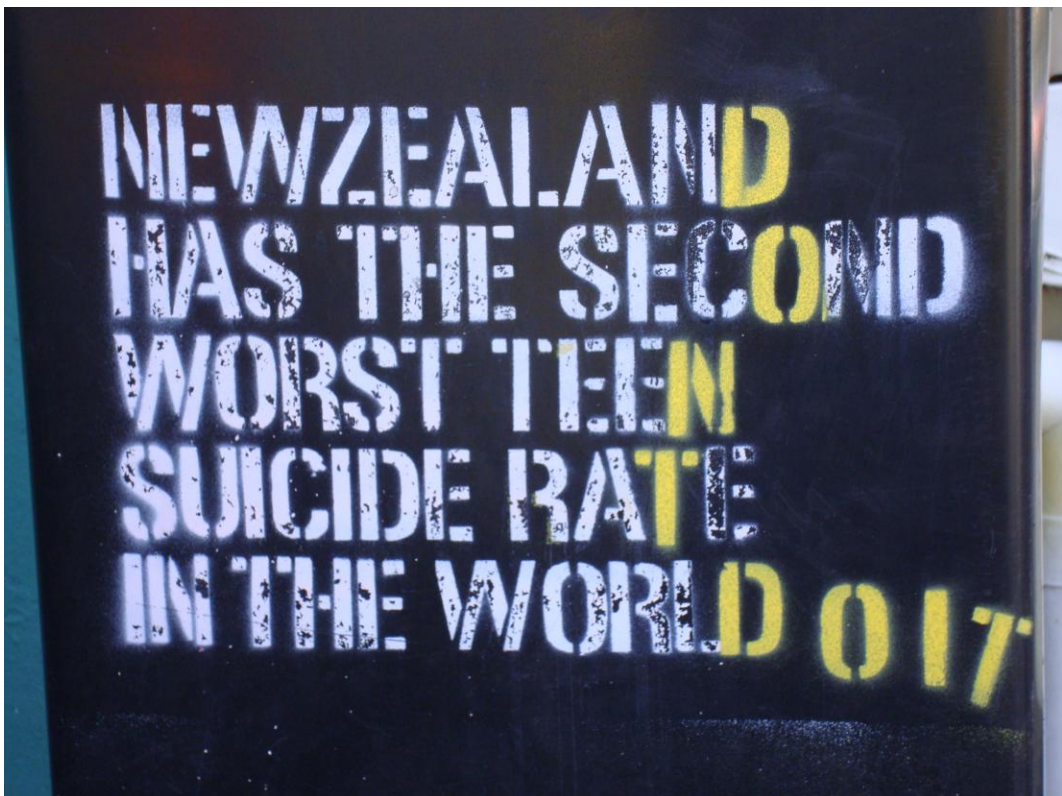
199. Lyttelton. 'BRAKE.' A Project Legit project at Oxford St playground.



200. Lyttelton. Project Legit project at Oxford St. playground.



201. Lyttelton. Stencilled message.



202. Lyttelton. Stencilled message.



203. Lyttelton. Selective graffiti removal, beneath port over-bridge.



204. Lyttelton. Stencilled litter bin, information centre, Oxford St.